

—OF THE—

Fiftieth Session

—OF THE—

Mississippi Annual Conference,

—OF THE—

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH,

HELD IN LEXINGTON, MISS., NOVEMBER 1-7, 1865.

Rev. LEVI PEARCE, Presiding.

DEAR BROTHER:—

I send you herewith a reprint of the minutes of the Conference, held in Lexington, Miss., Dec. 1-7, 1865. This was the first journal published after 1860, as far as I can learn, and the copy from which this reprint was made is the only one in existence, I think.

You will find it interesting, as indicating the methods of the fathers, and showing the condition of our Conference at the close of the war. But its main interest will be found to be in the "appendix" which contains the historic letter of the Bishops, issued to the Conferences from Columbus, Ga., Aug. 17, 1865.

A. F. WATKINS,

Secty.

Jackson, Miss., Mch. 1st, 1904.

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Fiftieth Session

—OF THE—

Mississippi Annual Conference,

—OF THE—

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH,

HELD IN LEXINGTON, MISS., NOVEMBER 1-7, 1865.

Rev. LEVI PEARCE, Presiding.

JACKSON, MISS.:

Printed at the Book and Job Office of the Daily and Weekly CLARION.
1866.

Reprinted by the
HARMON PUBLISHING CO.
Jackson, Miss.
1904

287.6762
M566j
1865
Cline
Room

PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCE.

THE Fiftieth Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South, was begun and held in Lexington, Miss., November 1-7, 1865.

Bishop Paine not having arrived, nor the Secretary of the last year, the Conference was called to order by John J. Clark, Assistant Secretary of last Conference.

On motion, Brother Montgomery was called to the Chair and conducted religious services.

The roll was called, and thirty-nine members answered to their names.

Rev. Levi Pearce was elected President, C. G. Andrews, Secretary, and W. L. C. Hunnicutt, Assistant.

The following committees were appointed, viz.:

On Public Worship—H. H. Montgomery, H. Williamson, and L. Ercanbrack.

On Education—H. F. Johnson, C. Chamberlain, and R. J. Jones.

On Church Publications—H. H. Montgomery, W. F. Camp, and J. MacLennan.

On Missions—R. W. Lambuth, W. Price, and J. J. Clark.

On Ministerial Support—W. P. Barton, N. S. Cornell, and J. D. Newsom.

On Bible Cause—J. Carr, G. D. Wade, and J. D. Hayes.

The hours of 9 A. M. and 1 P. M. were agreed upon as the time of meeting and adjournment.

Question 1. Who are admitted on trial?

Answer. Edwin A. Garrison, and A. M. Campbell.

Question 2. Who remain on trial?

A. Samuel D. Hale.

Q. 3. Who are admitted into full connection?

A. Thos. W. Flowers, William T. Ashford, William W. Drake, William E. Ballard, Humphrey C. Buck, and George W. Boyle, in Deacons' Orders.

Q. 4. Who are re-admitted?

A. None.

Q. 5. Who are received by transfer from other Conferences?

A. None.

Q. 6. Who are the Deacons of one year?

A. Walter W. Hurst, Michael Cox, Robert D. Norsworthy, James K. Hamblen, C. W. Campbell, and Louis Kendall.

Q. 7. What Traveling Preachers are elected and ordained Deacons?

A. The following were elected, but not ordained on account of the absence of the Bishop, viz.: Thomas W. Flowers, William T. Ashford, William W. Drake, William E. Ballard.

Q. 8. What Local Preachers are elected and ordained Deacons?

A. M. Boatner Chapman, John E. Campbell, Samuel Dilley, A. P. Leech, Jacob H. Holland, Henry M. Reidis, Charles F. Evans, Andrew Stewart, Moses H. Lack, Levi Meador, and Edwin A. Garrison were elected, but not ordained for reasons as above.

Q. 9. What Traveling Preachers are elected and ordained Elders?

A. John D. Hayes and Corydon Chamberlain were elected, but not ordained for reasons as above.

Q. 10. What Local Preachers are elected and ordained Elders?

A. Samuel D. Murff, William D. Lewis, Ezekiel F. Gore, and J. W. Winborn were elected, but not ordained for reasons as above.

Q. 11. Who have Located?

A. Henry T. Lewis and James S. Harris.

Q. 12. Who are Supernumerary?

A. Thomas Price, G. J. Mortimer, D. W. Dillehay, and J. W. Adams.

Q. 13. Who are Superannuated?

A. J. G. Jones, J. I. E. Bird, Thomas Clinton, Peter James, J. H. Massey, Hardy Mullins, Thomas Owens, Barnabas Pipkin, S. T. Swiney, G. T. Vickers, J. O. Woodward, and Asbury R. Hines.

Q. 14. What Preachers have died during the year?

A. None.

Q. 15. Are all the Preachers blameless in their life and official administration:

A. They are with the following exceptions: The Conference adopted the following preamble and resolution in regard to J. MacLennan, viz.: Inasmuch as there are certain rumors against Brother MacLennan's moral character in his district, therefore be it

Resolved, That the proper authorities be instructed to pursue the Disciplinary Course in the investigation of them, at the earliest practicable period during the coming year, and that his character pass.

The name of William R. Rainy was called, and the following report of the committee appointed in his case was submitted to, and adopted by, the Conference, viz.:

The committee to whom was referred the case of Brother Rainy report that, after careful inquiry into certain rumors touching his intercourse with his flock, they are satisfied that he is guilty of jesting in a very unministerial and improper manner. We therefore recommend that this body request its Chairman to reprimand Brother Rainy before Conference, and that Brother Rainy be required to desist in future from such unministerial and improper jesting, and that his character pass.

W. P. BARTON,
GEORGE D. WADE,
WILLIAM PRICE.

Whereupon the Chairman duly administered the reproof.

Resolved, That the character of John Lusk pass with the disapprobation of this Conference, for the neglect of official duty as complained of by some of his Quarterly Conferences.

Q. 16. What is the number of Preachers and members in the several Circuits, Stations and Missions of the Conference?

A. The statistics are very imperfect indeed, about forty-four appointments not being reported at all. The committee respectfully submit the following, the appointments unreported being left blank:

APPOINTMENTS.

	White Members.	White Probationers.	Colored Members.	Col'd Probationers.	Local Preachers.	Local Deacons.	Local Elders.
NATCHEZ DISTRICT.							
Natchez Station.....	170		26				
Kingston.....							
Buffalo.....							
Macedonia.....	125	25			5		1
Woodville.....							
Woodville, Colored Mission.....							
Wilkinson.....							
Percy's Creek and Tunica.....							
Clinton, La.....							
East Feliciana.....							1
Jackson, La.....	80	6	15	6			
East Baton Rouge.....							
Port Hudson and Plains.....							
German Mission.....							
FAYETTE DISTRICT.							
Fayette Circuit.....	283	19					2
Port Gibson.....	75	4	50	14			1
North Jefferson, Colored Mission.....							
South Jefferson, Colored Mission.....							
Adams Mission.....	35	1	150	15			
Meadville Mission.....	90	30					
Scotland.....							
Scotland, Colored Mission.....							
Homochitto Mission.....	40	20					
Bayou Pierre.....	360	130	327	26	5	1	1
Bayou Pierre, Colored Mission.....			189	62			
Burtonton.....	80	10					
Burtonton, Colored Mission.....			500	200			
Cayuga.....							
Rocky Springs.....							
VICKSBURG DISTRICT.							
Vicksburg Station.....							
Warren.....							
Clinton and North Warren.....	132	30					2
Jackson Station.....	70						
Raymond and Spring Ridge.....	175	40		70		1	2
Rankin.....							
Concord.....	345	77	150	75	2	2	2
Pearl River Mission.....							
GREENVILLE DISTRICT.							
Greenville and American Bend.....							
Deer Creek.....							
Sunflower Mission.....	38	58		106			
Bolivar.....							

APPOINTMENTS.

	White Members.	White Probationers.	Col'd Members.	Col'd Probationers.	Local Preachers.	Local Deacons.	Local Elders.
YAZOO DISTRICT.							
Yazoo City.....	62	11	25	8			1
Yazoo Circuit.....	178	95	87		2		1
Mt. Olivet Mission.....	130	48			3		1
Big Black Mission.....							
Ebenezer.....	114	10	53	9			
Lexington and Richland.....	115	8	30	81			
Holmes.....	123	16	61				
Black Hawk.....							
Sidon.....							
Carrollton.....	248	25					1
Greenwood.....	74	98	30	500		1	1
STARKVILLE DISTRICT.							
Starkville and Pierce Chapel.....							
Oktibbeha and Colored Mission.....	116	79	27	23			
Winona.....	444	30					
Bankston.....							
Greensboro.....	372	70	8	20	5	1	1
Line Creek.....	250	100	50		2	1	1
Webster.....							
Attalla.....	439	108	134			3	1
Louisville.....	269	105	25	89	3	1	
SHARON DISTRICT.							
Canton.....	80	2	100	40			
Sharon.....	145	24	35				
Vernon.....	30	25					
Livingston and Pearl River.....	70	23	60	80	2		2
Madison Mission.....	8		20				
Camden.....							
Sulphur Springs.....							
Carthage.....	107	15					1
Union.....	341	100			1	1	1
Chunkey Mission.....	110	20					1
Hillsboro.....	285	51	41	8	3	1	1
Philadelphia.....	300	75			2	3	4
PAULDING DISTRICT.							
Westville.....	175	35			1		
Mt. Carmel.....							
Trenton.....	252	107			1		1
Mt. Olive.....	215	33	30	32	1	1	
Lake and Colored Mission.....							
Garlandsville.....	250	20	100	15		1	1
Paulding.....	135	45					2
Beaver Dam Mission.....							
Okohay.....	203	72			4		1

APPOINTMENTS.	White Members.	White Probationers.	Colored Members.	Col'd Probationers.	Local Preachers.	Local Deacons.	Local Elders.
PAULDING DISTRICT— <i>Continued.</i>							
Ellisville Mission.....							
Black Creek.....							
HANDBORO DISTRICT,							
Handsboro and Biloxi.....							
Red Creek.....							
Columbia.....	90	17	40	30	1		
Gainsville Mission.....							
Pearl River.....	95	15	15				
China Grove.....							
Franklinton.....	125				2		2
Covington.....	67	6	20		1		
Chefuntchta Mission.....		11					
Livingston.....							
BROOKHAVEN DISTRICT.							
Brookhaven.....	51	19			1		
Brookhaven Circuit and Colored Mission	150	40	150	50	1	1	1
Monticello.....	79		47				
Crystal Springs and Hazlehurst.....	198	19	84	12	1	1	
Georgetown.....	197						
Holmesville.....							
Amite.....	207	88	78	46			
St. Helena.....	130	43					
Greensburg.....	139	21	11				
Arcola.....							

Q. 17. What amounts are necessary for the Superannuated Preachers, and the Widows and Orphans of Preachers, and to make up the deficiencies of those who have not obtained their regular allowance in the respective Districts, Circuits and Stations?

A. Your Committee on Ministerial Support beg leave to report, that they are unable to ascertain the deficiencies of the Preachers, in consequence of the assessment being made in Confederate money. Indeed, we deem it unnecessary to inquire into them, owing to the inadequacy of the funds in hand to meet any part of these deficiencies. The Bishops', Superannuates', Preachers', Widows' and Orphans' claims are \$5,320. To meet which, \$1,463.55 (plus a surplus sent Brother Geo. T. Vickers,) have come into our hands, from all sources.

Your Committee made a *pro rata* dividend of the funds, retaining a considerable sum, which they afterwards distributed to the more necessitous, according to their needs, as far as they could be ascertained. We fear our work may not in every case have been equal, but we did what we could.

NAMES OF CLAIMANTS.	Claim	Rece'pts
Bishop Paine.....	\$ 400	\$400 00
Sister Dew and Child.....	175	34 25
Sister Haynie	150	29 85
Sister Becton.....	150	29 50
Sister Mortimer and Children.....	280	86 50
Sister Thornton.....	150	29 50
Sister Payne.....	150	30 50
Sister Watson.....	150	29 50
Sister Nash and Child.....	175	34 25
Sister Morris.....	150	29 50
Sister Curtis and Child.....	190	70 85
Bro. J. I. E. Byrd.....	300	66 00
Bro. J. G. Deskins	300	66 00
Sister V. Johnson and Child.....	280	56 25
Sister Wiggins and Children.....	295	91 25
Sister Dickinson and Children.....	230	71 50
Sister Drake and Children.....	215	42 00
Sister Cooper and Children.....	215	42 00
Sister Campbell and Children.....	230	63 85
Sister Simms and Children.....	240	45 50
Sister Castles.....	150	25 00
Sister John C. Johnson	150	25 00
Bro. Roger's Children.....	80	22 00
Bro. Fly's Children.....	65	13 00
H. Mullens.....	300	30 00
G. T. Vickers.....	150	Surplus
Total	\$5320	\$1463 55

Respectfully submitted,

W. P. BARTON,
N. S. CORNELL,
J. D. NEWSOM.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The Committee on Education instruct me to report as follows:

The cause of Education greatly suffered during the late war. The greater number of our prominent schools were discontinued, the remaining few barely existed. There are many difficulties in the way of bringing them to their former prosperous state, but to be a happy and thriving people the work MUST BE DONE. Every Minister of Christ should feel a deep interest in this great cause, and labor for its promotion. The Committee are happy to say that schools of a high grade are reviving in many places, and with the fostering care of preachers and people promise to do well.

Sharon Female College opened on the 2nd of January last, under the Presidency of Rev. S. D. Akin, with only eleven pupils, but they increased to forty-nine during the session. The college is now in progress with a

competent corps of teachers, and the number of scholars increasing. It is OUR COLLEGE, and should receive our favor, support and influence. The President is an able and experienced educator. Let him be sustained. The Trustees request that he be re-appointed to the presidency, which the Committee recommend to be done.

Whitworth Female College is very pleasantly situated at Brookhaven, on the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern Railroad. The location is healthy and easy of access. The building is large and commodious, furnishing room for eighty-five boarders. It is under the Presidency of the Rev. Geo. F. Thompson, but Mrs. Rachel E. Thompson, an experienced and efficient instructress is the Principal in teaching. The college is worthy of patronage. The Trustees request that Rev. Geo. F. Thompson be appointed to the Presidency, which the Committee leave to the discretion of the appointing power.

Clinton Female Seminary (La.,) is of long standing, and well earned reputation. The Principals, Mrs. Wall and Mrs. Dunbar, complain that they are neglected by the Methodist Preachers. They desire that the Preacher in charge of the Clinton Station, and the Presiding Elder of the District, be requested to visit the school occasionally to counsel, admonish and encourage the scholars, and to pray with them before leaving. It is hoped that their call will be heeded, and that there will hereafter be no cause of complaint on this account.

The Port Gibson Female College, and the Woodville Female Seminary, are in successful operation. They are worthy of public favor and patronage, and are cordially recommended as suitable institutions for the education of our young ladies.

Centenary College, after a suspension of three years has resumed its labors, under the Presidency of Rev. John C. Miller, assisted by Professors Wiley and Potter, and Rev. A. G. Miller, Principal of the Preparatory Department. There are few students in the Collegiate Department, and forty or fifty in the Preparatory. Though its future is not flattering at present, yet it is hoped, that under the blessing of God, it will prosper even more than in days of old, and that her classic halls will, for years to come, be crowded with the youths of our land, there to be fitted and polished for usefulness in life.

One other matter demands our earnest and serious attention. To mention it is to excite objection, but your Committee cannot pass over it in silence. We allude to the mental culture of the negroes. We have space barely to mention it. They are among us and will, in all human probability, remain so. They have not now masters to care and provide for them and to prevent their running into fanaticism and dissipation. They need more knowledge now than when in a state of slavery, because they must now exercise their own judgment in providing for themselves, whilst formerly others provided for them. Again, laws, civil and criminal, will be enacted by our Legislature for the government of the negroes. These laws

they ought to be able to read. Surely none will deny this. Formerly their owners informed them of the laws governing them, but now there is no one whose especial duty it is to do this.

Again, formerly they had owners whose duty it was to furnish them with religious instruction; but now it is not so. God has given us and them, and all men, His Holy word to read and search. The reading of that word instructs the mind and the heart, and better prepares man for usefulness, happiness, and heaven. Who will have the hardihood to assert that the reading of the Bible by the negroes will do them harm, or will be of no service to them.

Again, if they are left without any mental culture, they will sink deeper and deeper into ignorance, superstition and fanaticism, and be easily led by wicked and designing men into the commission of crime.

These are some reasons why the negroes should be taught to read. But who are to superintend their education—Abolitionists or Southern people? The Committee answers emphatically, *Southern* people.

Because, 1st. They are among us. They have heretofore labored for us faithfully. We have always, and very justly, asserted that we are better friends to them than the Abolitionists are, or ever were. Let us prove our profession by our works; not now cast off the negro contemptuously and deny him, so far as we have the power, all education.

2ndly. If we allow the Abolitionists to take this whole matter into their hand, they will send among us a class of teachers, men and women, who will be very detrimental to our and the negro's interest. They will give them lessons in all the "isms" of New England; will make them lawless and fanatical; will cause the negroes to love Northerners and hate Southerners.

Your Committee do not undertake to say that we, as a Conference, are to enter upon any plan for the education of negro children, but we give the foregoing as reasons why the education of the negro children should be under the direction of Southern people; and in view thereof, your Committee believe that we ought not to discourage the mental culture of negro children by Southern people, but rather to encourage and recommended it.

H. F. JOHNSON, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHURCH PUBLICATIONS:

The Committee on Church Publications in making their report beg leave to state: That during the war; through which our country has passed, the devastating hand has not left untouched the publishing interests of our Church. The operations of the Publishing House at Nashville ceased altogether early in 1862; and the property was siezed and libeled for Confiscation—presses, type, store rooms, were all appropriated by the United States authorities, and we learn from Brother Abbey's letter of the 10th of October, were still in their possession and use. We are

gratified to learn, though, that he felt confident all would soon be turned over to the Book Agent. We trust this hope will be realized, and that ere long we may learn that it is doing work for the good of the church in publishing a sound, moral and religious literature. How much we have felt the necessity of this literature it is not for your Committee to estimate.

We regret that we have no official information in reference to the Book and Tract Depository at Vicksburg, but fear that the books have all been lost. At a meeting of the stockholders of the Book and Tract Society, held this day, Rev. E. G. Cook, and the Brother who may be stationed in Vicksburg, were appointed a Committee to see what books may be collected in Vicksburg, and see what may be realized on the notes and accounts due the Depository, and if possible to try and keep; at least, a good stock of Sunday School books.

All our Church periodicals have been suspended, and we have been denied their weekly, monthly and quarterly visits, so that we have been denied that communion we were wont to have with our Brethren of the different sections of our Zion. We knew not often how the cause of God was prospering out of our own circumscribed fields. We knew not whether victory was flashing along the ranks in other parts of the field, or whether defeat was there.

We are gratified to be able to report that the Southern Christian Advocate has been revived, and is now being published at Macon, Georgia: We are gratified to learn that the Richmond Christian Advocate has been revived, and we hope its former circulation and usefulness will be attained.

Also, that D. S. Dogget and J. E. Edwards, of the Virginia Conference have begun the publication of a religious paper at Richmond, Va., called the Episcopal Methodist.

However, we, as a Conference, feel at this time a more lively interest in the prospect of the re-publication of the New Orleans Christian Advocate, at \$5 per annum in advance, so soon as 1,000 subscribers shall have been obtained. We hope that the Preachers of this Conference will exert themselves to obtain subscribers, and make remittances for it.

Resolved, That we cordially recommend to our people the favorable consideration of the New Orleans Christian Advocate.

Resolved, That we urge the members of this Conference to use their best endeavors to secure subscribers and funds for the New Orleans Christian Advocate.

H. H. MONTGOMERY, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

To the Mississippi Conference:

Your committee, to whom was referred the subject of Sunday Schools, submit the following brief report:

They find that, in consequence of the war, labor in this important field has been very much interrupted, and in some cases seriously neglected. The statistics, as furnished by the brethren, are very incomplete, and many of our largest schools are not reported. According to statistics furnished, there are in the bounds of this Conference 61 schools, containing, in the aggregate, 323 teachers and officers, and only 1,190 scholars, with 3,000 volumes in their libraries.

This brief summary shows that in this important and indispensable department of labor, which lies at the foundation of the growth of the Church, there has been a fearful falling off in successful labor, and we can only express the hope that, with the return of peace, by which the way is opened to renewed effort upon the part, both of the ministry and laity, to rebuild the dilapidated walls and waste places of Zion, that the Sabbath School, the first and most important agency for this great end, will receive the care, labor and prayers of all that desire to promote scriptural knowledge and holiness over these lands, desolated temporally and spiritually by the besom of war, but which, under the sanctified labors and sacrifices of the true men of God, both in the ministry and laity, is yet to bloom and blossom as the rose.

For the furtherance of this object, the Sunday School Society of the Mississippi Conference resolved to hold an anniversary at the next session, of this Conference (on Saturday night), and speakers were selected to address the Conference on this subject.

G. H. CLINTON. Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BIBLE CAUSE.

The Committee on the Bible Cause report: That after diligent inquiry, they can gather nothing definite as to the extent of the circulation of the Scriptures among the people during the past year, though distributions have been made. We are fully persuaded, in view of the moral condition of the people, of the great importance of the circulation of the Bible among them. We are impressed with the necessity of a united effort to accomplish this great end; therefore

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend the re-organization of the old Bible Societies, and that diligent efforts be made, by all, to create new ones wherever practicable.

JOSEPH CARR,
JOHN D. HAYES,
GEORGE D. WADE.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

The Committee on Missions beg leave to make the following report: Our country, for the last twelve months, has been in such a disturbed

condition that it is almost impossible to find out the spiritual or financial condition of our Missions. We have received but little information from missionaries traveling in our bounds; we must, therefore, submit such facts and information as we have been able to gather under the circumstances.

During the last year but little has been accomplished in our fields of labor. The Missions among our people of color have been almost entirely broken up during our bloody struggle for independence. Those who were once slaves, are now set at liberty by the power of the general government. They are still among us, and, with few exceptions, look to us for the bread of life. We must not forsake them now, on account of their liberation. They still have claims upon us, which can only be met by our Christian benevolence and zeal for the salvation of their souls. If we neglect their moral and intellectual improvement, this work will be sought after (whether they attend to it or not), by those who will not co-operate with us. We believe the time is at hand for us to work, and if we fail, God will not hold us guiltless. They are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ; they are the subjects of his perpetual intercession. May God help us to be co-workers with his Son in the accomplishment of their eternal happiness. This poor, unfortunate race, in their present condition, demands our care and prayers, and every other Christian effort to elevate them in the scale of moral being. There are many places in the bounds of this Conference where missionaries might do great good, and where the people, both white and black, would most gladly receive them, if we had the men to send and the money to support them. While reviewing our missionary fields, we are reminded of the solemn truth which fell from the lips of the Son of God: "The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers are few."

Our Missions to the whites should not be neglected. There are many of the Lord's poor in the bounds of this Conference; if they would, they are not able to support their missionaries. They are, however, willing to do something, and we hope, by the aid of our public fund, collected for such purposes, we shall be able to do more than is now expected. There are many crippled soldiers scattered over these lands, not included in our circuits, stations, or missions, who have fought and bled for our country's rights and liberties, who would be glad to hear the Gospel. Besides this particular class, there are a number of soldiers' widows, and their fatherless children, who greatly need that consolation which the Gospel alone can give.

In regard to our Foreign Missions, we know but little; but we hope to see a brighter day, when our missionary labor will be extended to all mankind. We have done much, but we could have done much more in the noble cause we have espoused. Our dear country is now in a dilapidated state; the people are not as able to pay now as they once were. We hope, however, that our sad misfortunes will induce us to do our duty; and by so doing we shall lay up treasures above, where moths cannot corrupt,

and where thieves do not break through and steal. In order that our missionary plan and efforts may be effectually carried out, we offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1st. That we set apart the month of October for the collection of missionary funds, and that each pastor having charge of a circuit, station or mission be required to preach expressly on the subject.

Resolved, 2d. That if any presiding elder, or preacher in charge, be found guilty of the neglect of duty, in regard to Missions, especially those duties which are laid down in our excellent Book of Discipline, under pages 289 and 290, part 2, section 7: he, or they, shall be publicly reprimanded by the Presiding Officer of the Conference.

Resolved, 3rd. That in our efforts to collect, that we make mention of our obligation, as a Conference, to Brother Lambuth, who is our Missionary to China, and do all in our power to secure him a handsome support.

ROBERT LAMBUTH,
WILLIAM PRICE,
JOHN J. CLARK.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN OF DECEASED SOLDIERS.

Resolved, That the preachers of this Conference endeavor to carry out the plan proposed at the last Conference, for the education of the children of deceased soldiers, and that Dr. Marshall be requested to issue a circular to the preachers on the subject; and also that the plan be published in the Minutes.

J. M. PUGH.

PLAN OF EDUCATING THE CHILDREN OF DECEASED AND DISABLED SOLDIERS.

Resolved, That the Presiding Elders take charge of the matter in their respective districts, calling to their aid the preachers in their districts, and such laymen as they can enlist. They may, if expedient, form district societies, and shall provide for the needy orphans of deceased soldiers and the children of disabled and indigent ones, looking especially to their education in the schools near their homes. They shall report to the next Conference, in writing, all they may have done, with the view to the organization of a general plan, etc.

VAN HOUTEN BEQUEST FUND.

James MacLennan was appointed a committee to inquire into the condition of the Van Houten Bequest Fund, and report to the proper authorities.

Resolved, That the Trustees of the Van Houten Bequest Fund be and they are hereby instructed to receive the legal tender notes of the United

States in payment of the notes now due, and that they be requested to loan the same.

NEW ORLEANS "CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE."

Resolved, That we urge the members of this Conference to use their best endeavors to secure subscribers and funds for the New Orleans "Christian Advocate"; and that we cordially recommend the same to the patronage of our people.

WHEREAS, We learn that there are about twelve thousand dollars outstanding accounts due the New Orleans "Christian Advocate."

Resolved, That the preachers of this Conference pledge themselves to use their best efforts to collect the accounts, when sent to them, as early as possible.

MISSIONARY APPROPRIATIONS.

The Missionary Committee made the following appropriations, all to be collected from the districts in which the several appointments stand:

Buffalo.....	\$ 100 00
East Baton Rouge.....	50 00
Greensboro	50 00
Louisville	150 00
Monticello	100 00
Goshen	150 00
Covington....	50 00
Ponchatoula	100 00

J. M. PUGH,
J. A. GODFREY,
K. A. JONES,
H. WILLIAMSON,
J. G. CARLISLE,
B. B. WHITTINGTON,
J. MACLENNAN.

INTERESTS OF THE NEGRO.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take into consideration all matters pertaining to the religious interests of the colored people within our bounds, and report to the Conference as early as practicable.

W. WADSWORTH,
J. G. JONES.

Whereupon, the chair appointed J. G. Jones, W. H. Watkins, W. P. Barton, H. F. Johnson and J. MacLennan, on said Committee. After due course of time, Brother J. G. Jones, Chairman of the Committee, read their report, which was adopted by the Conference. and Brother Jones instructvd

to have the same published, if practicable, in some of the papers of the State.

(The report is omitted in these Minutes on account of its length.)

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of Presiding Elders, aided by the Preachers in charge of the Stations and Circuits, to organize Schools; where they can do so to advantage, for the Education of the Negro, where it can be done in accordance with the Statutes of the State.

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH.

Rev. Mr. Ross, of the Methodist Protestant Church, was introduced to the Conference, invited to a seat among us, and to take part in our deliberations.

H. F. Johnson, Fraternal Messenger to the Methodist Protestant Conference, which met in Jasper county last December, reported that he attended the session of said Conference; and was most cordially received and welcomed by its members, and was made to feel while attending their session, that he was among a band of Methodist Preachers. On motion of H. F. Johnson, the following resolution was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That this Conference appoint a Fraternal Messenger to attend the next session of the Methodist Protestant Conference, to convene at Waynesboro, Mississippi, on the 6th day of December next.

Communications from Revs. P. H. Napier and R. S. Clark, Fraternal Messengers from the Methodist Protestant Church, expressing sentiments of the highest Christian regard, and an earnest desire for a union of their Church with ours, were read to the Conference and unanimously adopted.

On motion brethren W. Harrington; and H. F. Johnson were appointed Fraternal Messengers to the Methodist Protestant Conference which meets at Waynesboro, Mississippi, on the 6th of December next, to bear to them our Christian salutations, and to consider all matters of mutual interest to the Conferences.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Resolved, That the delegates from this Conference be requested to use their influence in the ensuing General Conference to change the mode of examining the character of members of the annual Conferences, and if practicable obtain the passage of a rule requiring the appointment of a "Committee on Character," which Committee shall meet on the first day of the annual Conference, to receive, consider, and report on all complaints and charges, if any be made, and upon this final report the entire Conference shall be passed.

W. F. Camp.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the General Conference be memorialized in regard to

the boundry between the Mississippi and Mobile Conferences, and be requested to change the same so as to make it conform to the line dividing the States of Mississippi and Alabama, and that Bishop Paine be requested to lay the subject before the Mobile Conference, at its approaching session for consideration and action.

Resolved, That our delegates to the General Conference be instructed to request a Ritual for the reception of members unto full connection.

The following Committees on Examination were appointed:

To examine Candidates for Admission:

J. MACLENNAN,
J. A. GODFREY,
J. D. NEWSOM.

FIRST YEAR.

The Bible Historical, and Biographical, with reference to Watson's Dictionary and Preacher's Text Book, English Grammar and Composition. S. D. AKIN.

Wesley's Sermons, Vol. 1, Discipline and Hymn Book.

B. JONES.

Clark's Preacher's Manual, Watson's Institutes Part 3rd and Theological Compend.

W. P. BARTON.

SECOND YEAR.

The Bible as to Ordinances and Institutions, with reference as above, Watson's Institutes Part 4th.

W. B. HINES.

Smith's Elements of Divinity, Watson's Life of Wesley, and Composition with reference to Quackenbos' Advanced Course.

J. M. PUGH.

Wesley's Sermons Vol. 2nd, Discipline and Hymn Book.

C. G. ANDREWS.

THIRD YEAR.

The Bible as to Doctrines, with reference as above, Wesley's Sermons Vol. 3d.

H. H. MONTGOMERY.

Watson's Institutes, Part 2nd, Hymn Book and Discipline.

W. HARRINGTON.

Whateley's Rhetoric, and Composition with reference to Vinet's Pastoral Theology.

W. L. C. HUNNICUTT.

FOURTH YEAR.

Bible as to Chronology, with reference as above, Hymn Book. Dis-

cipline and River's Elements of Moral Philosophy.

J. L. FORSYTH.

Wesley's Sermons Vol. 4th, Watson's Institutes Past 1st and Powell on Succession.

H. F. JOHNSON.

Whatley's Logic, Ruter's Church History, and Essay or Sermon.

G. H. CLINTON.

Resolved, That this Conference renew its pledge to support Rev. J. W. Lambuth as our Missionary to China, and that each member of this Conference be required to take up a collection during the year following for his support.

The election of S. D. Akin, J. M. Pugh, and Levi Pearce to be trustees of Sharon Female College was confirmed by the Conference.

VISITING COMMITTEES.

CENTENARY COLLEGE—W. B. Hines, W. T. J. Sullivan, P. Lane.

SHARON FEMALE COLLEGE—H. F. Johnson, W. Harrington, C. G. Andrews.

WHITWORTH FEMALE COLLEGE—G. H. Clinton, W. G. Millsaps, C. Chamberlain.

PORT GIBSON FEMALE ACADEMY—W. H. Watkins, J. A. B. Jones, B. Jones.

CLINTON FEMALE ACADEMY—J. A. Godfrey, J. L. Forsyth; H. J. Harris.

WOODVILLE FEMALE ACADEMY—J. C. Miller, J. A. Godfrey, W. H. Watkins.

WOODVILLE FEMALE SEMINARY.

Resolved, That we will most cordially recommend Woodville Female Seminary to the patronage of our people and that in accordance with the wishes of the trustees we recommend that Rev. W. T. J. Sullivan be appointed to the Presidency of that institution.

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved by the Mississippi Annual Conference, That as Southerners and Southern Methodist Ministers we do hereby tender our warm and heartfelt thanks to Dr. C. K. Marshall for his constant, laborious, and efficient services, rendered to our noble soldiers in the field and hospital during the late war, and for the honor he has reflected on the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

W. F. CAMP,
H. H. MONTGOMERY
W. HARRINGTON,
C. G. ANDREWS,

A resolution was introduced by B. Jones, and adopted by the Conference, setting apart Friday of this session as a day of fasting and prayer for the blessing of God upon the Conference and especially upon those that are to be admitted on trial.

Resolved That between this and the 20th of March next, the members of this Conference, who are in charge of Stations, Circuits and Missions, be requested to take up a collection in each congregation for the purpose of defraying the expenses of our delegates to the ensuing General Conference, and remit the same to the delegate nearest to them; and should the amount so collected exceed the expenses of the delegates the excess shall be turned over at our next session to the Conference Stewards.

G. H. CLINTON,
J. M. PUGH.

Resolved, That we are convinced of the great necessity of more laborers at home and abroad. Souls are perishing for the bread of life, and there is necessity of Scriptural Holiness everywhere. We therefore earnestly request and desire, that the chair appoint a day of fasting and prayer, and that each member of this Conference bring this subject before his congregation by all possible means, and request that we pray for a general revival and especially for an increase of laborers in the Lord's Vineyard.

WM. PRICE
GEO. JACKSON.

Whereupon the Chair appointed the Friday before the first Sabbath in April next.

Resolved, That the heartfelt thanks of the ministers and members attending this Conference are hereby tendered to the citizens of Lexington and vicinity, for the hospitable entertainment of the preachers; to the clergy who have in a spirit of catholic love offered their churches for the use of this Conference; and to the sheriff for the use of the court house, and that for these kind expressions they shall ever have our grateful remembrance.

Resolved, That the foregoing resolution shall be published in the *Lexington Advertiser*.

GEO. J. MORTIMER.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the officers of the Mississippi Central Railroad for kindness to the preachers of the Conference in passing them over the road without charge, and that this resolution be published.

J. A. B. JONES.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference be tendered to Rev. L. Pearce, for the impartial and dignified manner in which he has presided over this body, and to the secretaries for their faithful services.

G. H. CLINTON.

On motion, C. G. Andrews and W. L. C. Hunnicutt, were appointed a

committee to have the minutes of the present session published, together with the Bishops' pastoral address, and the money collected for the latter purpose was turned over to them.

Rev. J. MacLennan was granted permisston to visit his children in Scotland during the ensuing year.

The Conference offered a vote of thanks to brother Wm. G. Millsaps for generously offering to bear the expenses of publishing the minutes of this session of Conference.

Delegates to the General Conference: Levi Pearce, John G. Jones, Wm. H. Watkins, H. H. Montgomery, Ben Jones, W. Harrington, J. MacLennan, and C. K. Marshall.

Reserve Delegates: H. F. Jonson and W. P. Barton.

On motion, it was resolved that the next Conference be held in Natchez.

Appointments of the Mississippi Annual Conference.

NATCHEZ DISTRICT—JAS. A. GODFREY, P. E.

Natchez and Colored Charge—W. H. Watkins.
 Kingston, Washington and Colored Charge—N. S. Cornell.
 Buffalo and Colored Charge—C. W. Campbell.
 Macedonia and Colored Charge—R. D. Norsworthy.
 { Wilkinson—W. B. Hines.
 { Wilkinson Colored Charge—P. S. Petty.
 Woodville and Colored Charge—P. Lane.
 Percy's Creek—T. W. Brown.
 Clinton, Jackson, La., and Colored Charge—H. J. Harris.
 East Feliciana—J. L. Forsyth, T. Price, supernumerary.
 Bayou Sara, Plains and Colored Charge—E. R. Strickland.
 John C. Miller, President of Centenary College.
 W. T. J. Sullivan, President Woodville Female Academy.
 German Mission—August Gottschall.

VICKSBURG DISTRICT—GEO. H. CLINTON, P. E.

Vicksburg and Colored Charge—W. F. Camp.
 Warren—Jas. H. Shelton and J. W. Jones.
 Raymond and Spring Ridge—P. Howard.
 Cayuga and Colored Charge—John Lusk.
 Rocky Springs—P. A. Johnston.
 { Burtonton—D. A. J. Parker.
 { Burtonton Colored Charge—C. T. French.
 Port Gibson and Colored Charge—J. A. B. Jones.
 Claiborne and Colored Charge—To be supplied.
 { Fayette—W. Wadsworth and W. B. Johnson.
 { Jefferson Colored Charge—To be supplied.
 { Rodney Colored Charge—John D. Willis.
 C. K. Marshall, appointee of General Conference.
 R. Abbey, Assistant Book Agent.

JACKSON DISTRICT—H. F. JOHNSON, P. E.

Jackson—W. L. C. Hunnicutt.
 Clinton and Colored Charge—A. M. Campbell.

Vernon, Livingston and Colored Charge—R. W. Lambuth.
 Canton and Colored Charge—O. G. Andrews.
 Sharon and Colored Charge—L. Pearce. J. W. Adams, Sup.
 Camden and Colored Charge—H. H. Montgomery and T. M. Ward.
 Sulphur Springs and Colored Charge—J. K. Hamblen.
 { Carthage—To be supplied.
 { Center—J. W. McCrary.
 S. D. Akin, President of Sharon Female College.

YAZOO DISTRICT—J. M. PUGH, P. E.

Yazoo City and Colored Charge—W. B. Lewis.
 Mt. Olivet and Colored Charge—G. W. Alexander.
 Yazoo Circuit and Colored Charge—H. Williamson.
 Richland and Colored Charge—George D. Wade.
 Lexington and Colored Charge—W. P. Barton.
 Holmes and Colored Charge—T. C. Parish.
 Black Hawk and Colored Charge—J. D. Newsom.
 Carrollton and Colored Charge—Alex J. Smith.
 Greenwood—E. A. Garrison.
 Sidon—To be supplied by B. Holt.

GREENVILLE DISTRICT—JAMES MACLENNAN, P. E.

{ Greenville and Upper Deer Creek—Jos. Carr.
 { Greenville Colored Charge—W. T. Ashford.
 Bolivar—J. D. Shaw.
 Middle Deer Creek—S. E. Hale.
 Lake Lee and Leota—W. W. Drake.
 Issaquena—T. W. Flowers.
 Sunflower—I. B. Robertson.

STARKVILLE DISTRICT—KENNETH A. JONES, P. E.

Starkville and Pierce Chapel—R. J. Jones.
 Oktibbeha and Colored Charge—W. R. Rainey.
 Webster and Colored Charge—G. Jackson.
 Louisville and Colored Charge—J. A. Vance.
 Attala and Colored Charge—J. G. Carlisle.
 { Burkettsville—To be supplied by H. Harrison.
 { Zilpha Mission—L. Erkenbrack.
 Bankston and Colored Charge—H. Townsend.
 Winona and Colored Charge—T. W. Castles.
 Greensboro—To be supplied by E. F. Gore.
 Line Creek and Colored Charge—to be supplied by W. Lewis.

BRANDON DISTRICT—W. B. WHITTINGTON, P. E.

Brandon and Colored Charge—To be supplied by J. A. Ellis.
 { Concord—T. W. Hines.
 { Concord Colored Charge—W. Price.
 { Goshen—H. Copeland.
 { Hillsboro—G. W. Boyles.
 { Hillsboro Colored Charge—To be supplied.
 { Union—To be supplied by J. A. Williams.
 { Union Colored Charge—J. G. Deskin.
 Philadelphia N. B. Young.
 Garlandville and Colored Charge—E. H. Mounger.
 Lake Mission—To be supplied by E. W. Chatfield.

Mt. Olive and Colored Charge—J. D. Hayes.

Trenton and Colored charge—L. Kendall.

PAULDING DISTRICT—JAS. ENGLISH, P. E.

Paulding Circuit—F. W. Sharborough.

Paulding Colored Charge—To be supplied.

{ Okohay—To be supplied by J. N. Holland.

{ Ellisville Mission—To be supplied.

{ Black Creek—To be supplied.

{ Red Creek—W. W. Graves.

Hansboro, Biloxi and Colored Charge—J. J. Clark.

{ Columbia—H. C. Buck.

{ Gainesville Mission—To be supplied.

Mt. Carmel and Colored Charge—H. P. Lewis.

Westville—W. W. Hurst.

BROOKHAVEN DISTRICT—BEN. JONES, P. E.

Brookhaven Station—G. F. Thompson.

Brookhaven Colored Charge—A. J. Wheat.

Brookhaven Circuit—P. E. Green.

{ Monticello and Colored Charge—A. Day.

{ Pearl River—H. D. Berry.

Georgetown and Colored Charge—R. T. Hennington.

Crystal Springs, Hazlehurst and Colored Charge—J. W. McNeil.

{ Bayou Pierre Circuit—W. G. Millsaps.

{ Bayou Pierre Colored Charge—E. F. Mullins.

{ Scotland—A. B. Nicholson.

{ Scotland Colored Charge—John D. Bowen.

{ Homochitto—R. A. Sibley.

{ Meadville—W. Finn.

{ Meadville Colored Charge—C. A. McNeil.

Amite and Colored Charge—W. H. Germany, G. J. Mortimer, supernumerary.

Holmesville and Colored Charge—H. A. Flowers.

ARCOLA DISTRICT—J. NICHOLSON, P. E.

Arcola and Amite—C. Chamberlain.

Pontchatoula—D. Merchant, D. W. Dillehay, supernumerary.

{ Greensburg—M. Cox.

{ Greensburg Colored Charge—To be supplied.

Magnolia—J. B. Higginbotham.

St. Helena and Colored Charge—W. E. Ballard.

East Baton Rouge—C. R. Godfrey.

{ Covington—To be supplied by A. J. Blackman.

{ Chefuncta Mission—To be supplied.

Franklinton—R. B. Downer.

Jas. W. Lambuth, Missionary to China.

J. J. Wheat, transferred to Memphis Conference, and stationed at Oxford.

F. M. Featherston, transferred to Tennessee Conference.

C. F. Evans, transferred to Louisiana Conference.

H. M. Youngblood, transferred to Onachita Conference.

W. Harrington left without appointment on account of ill health.

Located—H. T. Lewis, Jas. S. Harris.

Superannuated—John G. Jones, J. I. E. Byrd, T. Clinton, P. James, J. H. Massey, H. Mullins; T. Owens, B. Pipkin, S. T. Sweney, G. T. Vickers, J. O. Woodward, and A. R. Hines.

To the Members of the Mississippi Conference:

DEAR BRETHREN—Our minutes might have been published a month sooner, but, because of a misunderstanding, the money for their publication has not been furnished; as expected. Your committee, relying on the forthcoming of the money as soon as we can communicate with Bro. Millsaps, have borrowed the sum necessary.

C. G. ANDREWS,

W. L. C. HUNNICUTT,

Committee.

APPENDIX.

Pastoral Addresses of the Southern Methodist Bishops.

To the Preachers and Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

DEAR BRETHREN—Through the Providence of God, we have been permitted to hold our annual meeting. Having reviewed the condition of the Church in the light of the best information we have been able to obtain from its various fields, and arranged the plan herewith set forth, of Episcopal visitation of the Annual Conferences at their approaching sessions, we do not feel that our responsibilities as your chief Pastors could be discharged without giving you our views as to the bearing of passing events upon the Church, and our advice as to the duties growing out of the peculiar times in which our lots have been cast.

The close of the war reveals much destitution and material suffering within those States where the larger portion of our membership is situated. Let us hope that returning peace will bring other and coveted blessings in its train—civil and social order, quiet and remunerative industry and plenty to our land; and that our churches, having rest, may be edified, and walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, may be multiplied. To these ends you need not be reminded that it is not less your duty as Christians than as loyal citizens to contribute by all the means within your power.

The cultivation of the graces of the Spirit will directly and mightily help forward the best interests of the country, now sore and broken and prostrate in its resources. Especially would we counsel mutual forbearance and conciliation in those sections where brethren have differed on the great issue, which has finally been decided by arms, and conscientiously held opposing opinions and courses, throughout the contest. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil-speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. Be kind to one another; and let pastors and people set themselves, in the temper of our Master, to healing the divisions and heart-burnings and alienations that may unhappily have arisen during the calamitous years through which we have just passed. The end of the war ought to be the end of all strife; for it would be unreasonable and reproachful in us as Christians to perpetuate a conflict which, in our relations as citizens of one common country, has been settled. Seek peace and pursue it. Build again the waste places of Zion. And forget not to pray for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty; for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.

The condition of those Conferences and portions of our Territory which have been the principal theatre of armies and battles will render the support of the ministry, for the present at least, difficult. They are

threatened with that great calamity, not a famine of bread nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. Never were the counsels and consolations of our holy religion, and the ordinances of God's house more needed by you and your families and your neighbors. We beseech you, brethren, let no labor or sacrifice hinder you from preaching and hearing the gospel. To accomplish this result, your self-denials must be mutual and cheerful. The work of saving the souls of dying men, and extending the Redeemer's Kingdom, must go forward. Our youth must be instructed, our Sabbaths hallowed and our sanctuaries kept open. When and wherever necessary, we commend to the preachers the example of the Apostle of the Gentiles in ministering to the Corinthians, "working with his own hands." And to the members, the example of the churches of Macedonia "whose deep poverty," in a great trial of affliction, "abounded unto the riches of their liberality." Have the days of a heroic and suffering ministry passed away? We trust not, but hope to see it illustrated in the opportunities the present distress affords. We cannot draw in our lines. We cannot abandon any field. But rather, in the spirit of our fathers, at once conservative and aggressive, while maintaining positions already taken, we must extend our labors to regions beyond.

In the change from slaves to freemen which has providentially befallen the negroes of the Southern States, our obligations to promote their spiritual welfare have not ceased. We are still debtor to them free, as before to them bond. Under the divine blessing, our church has done a great work for this people. Their moral training and generally diffused knowledge of the cardinal truths of Christianity and their ecclesiastical discipline has justly won the admiration of many who have lately come in contact and acquaintance with them. It has accomplished more; it has materially contributed to their subordination and inoffensive behavior through the late defenseless and excited times, when prophecies were confident and opportunities frequent for domestic insurrections. And their safe though sudden passage from a state of bondage to liberty, a transition accompanied by no violence or tumult on their part, is largely due to this cause. Though often reviled while prosecuting the evangelization of the colored people by those who claimed to be their better friends, Southern Methodists have persevered in it, not without blessed results. We might have done more, but we should be thankful to the grace of God, that we have not done less. Our labor has not been in vain in the Lord. Multitudes have been saved, who will be our crowd of glory in "that day." And that the good effects of our religious teachings bestowed upon them in bondage will follow the race into their new condition and help to prepare them for it, is matter of pleasing reflection to us. Our numerous membership among them of over two hundred and forty thousand, exclusive of the congregations and catechumens who received instructions from our pastors and missionaries, has been much reduced by recent changes and casualties. If it should be still further reduced, we need no

be surprised. Defections, doubtless, will take place from their ranks to churches offering greater social inducements for their adhesion. If they elect to leave us, let them go with the assurance that as heretofore we have been, so will we continue to be, their friends, and in every suitable way aid their moral development and religious welfare. We must still keep a place and a service for those who remain with us and for others who, after a brief experiment elsewhere, may wish to return. While no factious opposition, on the one hand, should be offered to the exercise of their fullest liberty in choosing their ecclesiastical associations; on the other hand, no desire of being rid of a responsibility should incline you to treat their action, in so grave a matter, with indifference, or let them take their way in ignorance of all the issues involved. Give them exact information and patient explanation. Act faithfully and kindly in all things towards them, and as becomes those who truly care for their souls.

Reconstruction or reunion with the Methodist Episcopal Church, North, has, within the last few months, been brought before the public by their denominational papers and by their preachers and members in their published addresses and resolutions. Their Bishops and Missionary Secretaries held a meeting in June, the proceedings of which; embracing this subject, have been published by order. Under these circumstances allusion to it may be proper from us.

You are aware that at our first General Conference a delegate was appointed to visit the General Conference of the Northern Methodists and present to that body our Christian salutations, with the offer to establish fraternal relations and a closer intercourse between us as members of the same spiritual family. He was in all respects a most proper and unexceptionable minister, and performed the part assigned him in a most proper and unexceptionable manner. He presented his credentials to that body, and asked and awaited their decision. They granted him no hearing in their presence. They declined to receive him in his official character. They rejected his offer. He closed his ineffectual mission by informing them, in a communication which he assured them was final, that as they had rejected our offer, we could no more renew it. We held ourselves acquitted of any breach of Christian unity that might appear, but if, at any time, they should formally and officially make the same offer to us, the door would be open for its consideration. This was in 1848. They have since made no such offer. There the matter rests, and we might well be excused from any further reference to it.

We feel bound to say to you, however, that since then the position of Northern Methodists as towards us has been somewhat changed. Having agreed with us on a plan of separation into two independent jurisdictions, and for an equitable division of the church property, they afterwards sought to repudiate their covenant and to evade payment; and were only brought to settlement at the end of the law. This plan, though granted by themselves, who were in a majority, and subsequently confirmed by

the Supreme Court of the United States as the basis of our legal and constitutional rights, has been, whenever convenient, ignored by them.

They (the Northern Methodists) have endeavored, by misrepresentations, to fix on us the invidious character of secessionists and schismatics without authority or cause, from the parent body; whereas, we are, in all respects, co-equal, coeval with themselves.

The abolition, for military and political considerations, of the institution of domestic slavery in the United States, does not affect the question that was prominent in our separation in 1844. Nor is this the only difference, or the principal one between us and them. While testifying with pleasure to the nobler conduct and sentiments of many brethren among them, we must express, with regret, our apprehension that a large proportion, if not a majority of the Northern Methodists have become incurably radical. They teach for doctrine the commandments of men. They preach another Gospel. They have incorporated social dogmas and political tests into their church creeds. They have gone on to impose conditions upon discipleship that Christ did not impose. Their pulpits are perverted to agitations and questions not healthful to personal piety, but promotive of political and ecclesiastical discord, rather than those ends for which the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ was instituted. Without such a change as we see no immediate prospect of, in their tone and temper and practice, we can anticipate no good result from even entertaining the subject of re-union with them. Let us abide in our lot and be true to our calling, doing what we can to spread scriptural holiness through these lands and to oppose the tide of fanaticism which threatens their overthrow.

We, therefore, most earnestly would exhort you, brethren, to stand firmly on our platform of doctrine and discipline. Know your high calling. Preach Christ and him crucified. Do not preach politics. You have no commission to preach politics. The divinity of the church is never more strikingly displayed than when it holds on its even, straightforward way in the midst of worldly commotions. Be not turned aside from your path by local, specious, temporary influences. And in all your teaching and administration of discipline, keep in view that rule of our faith which declares that "the Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatever is not read therein nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man."

The conduct of certain Northern Methodist bishops and preachers, in taking advantage of the confusion incident to a state of war to intrude themselves into several of our houses of worship, and their continuing to hold these places against the wishes and protests of the congregations and rightful owners, causes us sorrow and pain, not only as working an injury to us, but as presenting to the world a spectacle ill calculated to make an impression favorable to christianity. They are not only using, to our deprivation and exclusion, churches and parsonages which we have

built, but have proceeded to set up a claim to them, as their property. By what shadow of right, legal or moral, we are at a loss to conceive. We advise our brethren who suffer these evils to bear them patiently, to cleave closely together, and not indulge in any vindictive measures or tempers. A plain statement of the case and an appeal to the justice of those in authority, cannot fail to defeat such scandalous designs and secure us the full restoration of all our rights.

While some talk of re-union of the two churches, we forewarn you of a systematic attempt already inaugurated, and of which the foregoing is only an instance, to disturb, and, if possible, disintegrate and then absorb our membership individually. In the meeting of their bishops and missionary secretaries, alluded to, it was resolved to send preachers and plant societies in our midst wherever there is an opening. Their policy is evidently our division, and ecclesiastical devastation. Against all this, be on your guard. Internal dissensions will do us much more harm than such outward antagonism. Be true to your principles, and under the divine favor they will triumph. In this connection you will be pleased to hear that our people are steadfast. The border Conferences, under special trials, present a noble example of steadfastness.

Not less as loyal citizens than as Christian men do we deplore the friction, the irritation and the waste of power that must mark such unprovoked conflict; the passions that will be aroused, and the influences that will be generated, more or less, not only in the membership of both communions, but in those who sympathize with them. Reaching and affecting as it will, directly or indirectly, so large a population, and stirring the popular feeling so deeply as religious feuds ever do, the effect must be seriously to retard that settlement and agreement of an estranged and heated public temper, already begun, and the consummation of which is devoutly to be desired by every patriotic mind. For any such untoward results we shall not be responsible.

Your General Conference, Providence permitting, will convene in New Orleans on Wednesday after the first Sunday in April next. To it will belong all such disciplinary changes and legislation as a wise regard to the wants of the church and the times demand.

We cannot close our address without an urgent and explicit recommendation to you, to adjust yourselves as citizens of the United States promptly, cheerfully, and in good faith to all your duties and responsibilities. Whatever may have been the opinions, positions or prejudices of any of you concerning the political changes that have occurred in the government, we deem this course to be called for on your part, both by a sound judgment and an enlightened conscience.

Finally, brethren, we exhort you, above all things, to cultivate personal holiness. Keep up your family altars. Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together for the regular and public worship of God. And may He give you the spirit of love, and of a sound mind, and guide you in all things to His glory.

J. O. ANDREW,
R. PAINE,
G. F. PIERCE.

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, August 17, 1865.

